



# Washington Spectator

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**THE US ECONOMY, GUNS OR JOBS** — For the first time since the Cold War began in 1946, Congress is likely to tear a chunk out of the Pentagon's oversize budget. Economics will force a move to what Arthur Miller calls "the other course that roars through the Bible and all history — the struggle of the human race to pacify the destructive impulses of man."

This means folding up America's crumbling overseas empire — Thieu may be overthrown, Greece close up some US bases — and taking the arms makers off their super welfare.

The reason: The US can't afford both guns and social programs without a new leap of inflation and even a 1929-style crash. A choice must be made, as between the B-1 bomber and clean water. The facts are our national debts is \$480 billion; \$74 billion has been added since 1969, "primarily the result of swollen military spending," says the Los Angeles Times. Interest on the debt will cost \$30.6 billion for the next fiscal year, 10% of the total budget.

Omens of the coming struggle are:

- The 1974 elections ripped off the 40-50 vote margin that military spenders had in the House, and an "ideological switch of 30 to 40 votes" is in the wind, says the New York Times. Eight hawks on the Armed Services Committee are not back to cheer on the Pentagon — Dem. O.C. Fisher, Tex, and GOPs William Bray, Ind., Les Arends, Ill., Charles Gubser, Cal., Carleton King, N.Y., John Hunt, N.J., Walter Powell, O, and Robert Price, Tex. Hunt was defeated by James Florio, backed by the New Jersey SANE.

- The prestigious Members of Congress for Peace Through Law, with more than 150 Congressmen, put the finger on \$8.5 billion of "doubtful military projects" that can be knocked out.

- Rep. Philip Burton (D-Calif.), called by columnists Evans and Novak, the "uncrowned King of the House," as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, was elected in 1964 "as a passionate dove." He favors a switch in priorities from guns to jobs and bread.

**MILITARY SPENDING ATTACKED** — • One of the staunchest defenders of fat military budgets, Senator Henry Jackson (D-Wash.), criticized the Vladivostok agreement as "the basis for a sustained 10-year arms buildup . . . an escalatory quick fix," and called President Ford's cutback of social spending as "disastrous for our senior citizens."

- Another Presidential Challenger, Governor of Oregon, a GOP Carter of Georgia, has asked for cuts in nuclear weapon

**OF THINGS TO COME** — Vice President Rockefeller will move into the management of government, while President Ford works the "rose garden circuit," pinning on medals and greeting foreign sachs. This does not mean any major policy changes, but less time getting answers from the Administration and less confusion. Other shapes of the future are:

- War in the Middle East this spring seems less likely. The fear is that — in the heated atmosphere — someone will panic, then the area will go up in flames. But on the plus side Saudi-Arabia, which bankrolls the Arab war machine, fears if war breaks out Iran will move into Persian Gulf oil sheikdoms and threaten it. King Feisal wants to worship in the mosques of old Jerusalem; one plan being considered is to create a corridor from Jordan to Temple Mount for Arab access to the two mosques. Also, Russia has decided war is not in its interest for now, since it would bring an East-West confrontation at a time the Soviets need western technology to boost consumer goods and exploit Siberian gas and oil. The US does not want to give Arab zealots an excuse to blow up the oil wells, as they have threatened if we intervene militarily.

The State Department has its fingers crossed on Syria, which might pull a trigger if it gets less out of a negotiated peace than its Arab rival, Egypt. A limited pull-back by Israel in the Golan Heights area is in the talking stage between the US and Israel.

- The four-day work week will spread to save jobs during the economic turn-down.

funds. Both he and Jackson favor a high level of military aid to Israel.

- Two architects of the Cold War, George Kennan and W. Averell Harriman, took exception to large military spending. Kennan spoke of the "distorting effect . . . (of) the immense size of the defense budget and the inordinate role of defense spending." Harriman denounced the "unchecked arms race" and the US "nuclear capacity to destroy 15 times the population of the world," reports the New York Times.

- Economist Robert R. Nathan, who advises top Democrats, tells us: "There is no question that if defense expenditures were reduced there could be reductions in taxes, or, more appropriate, increases in spending for essential purposes." George McGovern told the Democratic mini-convention we must not "squander our resources . . . for a feast of weapons to nourish dictatorships around the world."

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moderate, says, "To grant new assistance to housing and